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Cladocarpi 6, Pleurocarpi 306, Sphagnum 21; total 746 species—not very far short of the enumeration of North American species given by Lesquereux and James in 1884. One is surprised at this large number even when he recalls the tropical climate and the large size of Madagascar. If laid down upon the United States the island would stretch from New York to St. Louis, with an average width equal to the length of the state of Indiana.

The Prodrum contains descriptions of many new species and validates a number of *nomina nuda* by furnishing diagnoses. It is a pity that these new things were not figured. One could have cheerfully forgone the luxurious margins and hand-made deckel-edge paper, if necessary, for the sake of plates.—C. R. B.

Kerner's "Plant Life."

THE FIRST edition of Kerner's *Pflanzenleben* is well known to English and American readers through Professor F. W. Oliver's translation, entitled *The Natural History of Plants*. Kerner issued the first volume of a second edition in 1896, the second volume appearing in 1898, almost simultaneously with the announcement of the author's death.⁷ Inasmuch as the second edition follows the same general methods as the first, an extended review seems unnecessary. The divisions and subdivisions are generally the same as in the older edition, although all of the subjects treated have been reconsidered and brought more into harmony with the botany of today. A very attractive addition is the incorporation of a large number of new colored plates, as well as woodcuts and text figures. Kerner's first work has been one of the most satisfactory places to find typical plant habits and landscapes, and this feature has been improved in the second edition. Among some of the new illustrations are red snow, dodder, nullipore banks, luminous moss, reed swamps, Eucalyptus, lianas, lichens, etc. In many chapters considerable additional matter is to be found.

The most noteworthy change is the omission of about 100 pages on the classification of plants. This classification always seemed out of place in a work of this kind. The book closes with an entirely new chapter on the relation between man and plants—economic botany in the broader sense. Those plants which are used in the industrial arts are first discussed, then those which are used as food by man and by domestic animals and those which are employed in medicine, and for ornamental purposes. A historical sketch of gardens follows, beginning with the ancients and ending with the botanical and other gardens of the present day. At the close of the

⁷ KERNER VON MARILAUN, ANTON.—*Pflanzenleben*, zweite, gänzlich neubearbeitete Auflage. 8vo. Erster Band: Gestalt und Leben der Pflanze. 8vo. pp. xii + 766. *figs.* 215. *pl.* 34 (21 colored). 1896. Zweiter Band: Die Geschichte der Pflanzen. 8vo. pp. xii + 778. *figs.* 233. *pl.* 30 (19 colored). *map* 1. 1898. Leipzig and Vienna: Bibliographisches Institut.

topic, plants as motives in art is discussed, and such unusual botanical subjects are introduced as plants in tapestries, sculpture, painting and poetry. This last chapter is not without its value, even for botanists, especially nowadays when people are laying so much stress on the interrelationships of all subjects.—HENRY C. COWLES.

MINOR NOTICES.

AN EXCELLENT SERVICE has been rendered the collector of fleshy fungi by Mr. C. G. Lloyd⁸ in the publication of a twenty-two page pamphlet on the American *Volvæ*. There are included 38 species of *Amanita*, 12 of *Volvaria* and one of *Chitonina*. The necessity for much field study and close, critical work is evident from the author's statement that in the genus *Amanita* there are in this country five common species, nine occasionally found and definitely known, and twenty-four that are either doubtful identifications of European species or only recorded by the discoverer, many being described from dried specimens sent to Europe for that purpose.

The author gives concise diagnostic characters for each species, with many helpful notes, and in another place gives the full description for all species not found in Stevenson's *British Fungi*. The author evidently had in mind the encouragement of inexperienced collectors, and such will find that many of their difficulties have been anticipated; but the omission of the authority for the Latin name seems an unnecessary and inconvenient concession.

One is surprised to learn that the author does not approve of the application of the Rochester rules to cryptogams, and thinks that "it would result in an endless confusion in regard to nomenclature, and retard the study fifty years." In a work intended for assistance in field study, where the most familiar names serve best, it is doubtless only necessary to follow the most prominent authorities; but critical monographic study requires the application of the Rochester or similar rules, if reasonable stability is ever to be attained.—J. C. A.

A LIST of the spermatophytes and pteridophytes of the Upper Susquehanna region has been published by Mr. Willard N. Clute.⁹ This volume "is part of a general plan for an extended study of the flora about the headwaters of the Susquehanna river." It seems that this is the first compilation of the flora of the region, although a number of well-known botanists have been interested in it at various times. The author promises to record subsequent observations in annual supplements, recognizing the fact that the list

⁸ LLOYD, C. G.—A compilation of the *Volvæ* of the United States. 8vo. pp. 22. Cincinnati, 1898. 9 ill. from photographs.

⁹ CLUTE, WILLARD NELSON: Flora of the Upper Susquehanna and its tributaries. pp. xix + 142 + x. Binghamton, N. Y.: Willard N. Clute & Co. 1898.